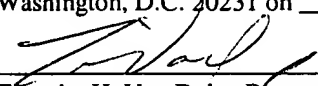


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Timothy H. Van Dyke, Patent Attorney



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Grooms & Mills

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ORIGINALLY FILED**

Application No: 09/960,256

Filed: 9/20/2001

Title: METHOD OF PREPARING AND PROCESSING  
TRANSPLANT TISSUE

Docket No: RTI-128R

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

**In the specification:**

Please add the following new text on page 1 as paragraph one and two of the  
specification:

**"CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:**

*a'* This application claims the benefit under 35 USC §119(e) of Provisional Application No:  
60/234,013 filed September 20, 2000.

#560360  
m/s  
3/15/02  
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